

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the remarks to follow is respectfully requested. Since the present Response raises no new issues, and in any event, places the application in better condition for consideration on appeal, entry of allowance thereof is respectfully requested under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116. Further search is not required for consideration of the application as no new limitations are being added.

In the Office Action, constituting a Final rejection, Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over US Patent No.6,829,607 to Tafoya, et al. (Tafoya) in view of "Official Notice".

The Examiner did indicate that Claims 18-20 constituted allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, and in order to secure allowable subject matter, applicants cancel Claim 1 and wholly incorporate the subject matter thereof in amended Claim 8, now re-cast in independent form. In view of the cancellation of Claims 1 and 12-17, Claims 2, 5, 6 and 10-11 are being amended to correct their dependencies.

Likewise, in order to secure allowable subject matter, the subject matter of canceled Claim 12 is wholly incorporated in amended Claim 19, now re-cast in independent form. Further, in order to secure allowable subject matter, the subject matter of canceled Claim 16 is wholly incorporated in amended Claim 20, now re-cast in independent form.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that canceled claims 1, 12 and 16 are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

In view of the foregoing, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Fischman', followed by a horizontal line.

Steven Fischman
Registration No.: 34,594

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY, & PRESSER, P.C.
400 Garden City Plaza, Suite 300
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 742-4343

SF:gc